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away. The Argentine Minister of Marine has turned over two of the naval vessels to the Minister of Agriculture, and they have been made parts of the merchant marine. The expenses for armaments have not only stopped growing but have already begun to decrease.

Why cannot what has been done by these two neighboring states, formerly hostile to each other and armed to the teeth, be done by any other two nations, or by all the armed powers? To ask the question is to answer it, and to silence all gainsayers.

General Miles, like his more distinguished predecessor, General Grant, on retiring from the head of the army, has put into formal statement an opinion on the general subject of the armaments of the world which he has been known for a good while to hold, and which it would be well for the civilized world at once to heed. The scheme of a general limitation of armaments which he has suggested is beyond question, as he says, "possible, practicable and most desirable." What he suggests is that the strength of the armies should be materially reduced and then based on population; that each nation should maintain a force of not more than one to every thousand of its population. This would reduce the German army to about fifty-five thousand men, the French to forty thousand, and those of other nations in the same proportion, and would leave them relatively in the same position that they are to-day.

General Miles does not mention the navies in his project but no reasons exist why the same law could not be made to govern their strength also.

He would have the United States take the initiative and call an international congress to meet at Washington at which an agreement should be entered into for the reduction of all the great armies to the degree which he proposes, and that then the army of no nation should be increased beyond this standard. Whether the suggestion is likely to be seriously considered is a matter of grave doubt, so deeply has the military mania fastened itself upon the great powers of the world. But that it ought to be seriously considered is perfectly clear. If the present course of the governments is much longer persisted in, they will scarcely be able to avoid a very rude awakening from their nightmare.

If General Miles' scheme could be carried out, the relief from the present strained condition would be very great. The amount of good feeling and confidence which would be thereby produced would create an entirely new international political atmosphere. The war budgets would begin to clap their hands for very joy, and the peoples, growing each year more exhausted and restless under the burdens imposed upon them, would begin to lift their heads in great hope. Why cannot the great governments of the world see that their interest in this matter would also be their crowning honor?

The Upheaval in European Turkey.

The long expected upheaval in the provinces of European Turkey seems at last to have begun, and it is doubtful now if the powers can do anything to stay it. The whole region is full of excitement and violence. The details of the daily butcheries, burning of villages, dynamiting of bridges and trains, annihilation of bodies of men, unspeakable acts of cruelty and outrage upon women and children, are sickening in the extreme. It would seem that brutality, instigated by religious bigotry, race hatred and the spirit of vengeance, could go no further. All sentiments of humanity seem to be crushed out, and the whole country is swiftly becoming a scene of indescribable disorder and lawlessness.

How a war of serious proportions can be longer avoided it is difficult to see. There is probably no other outcome to the condition of things which has long prevailed in that region, even if the conflict should be checked for the moment. The wonder is that the storm has so long hung without breaking. Not even the most radical opponent of war expects that peace can be preserved where every condition of peace is wanting. To say this is not to justify war; it is the exact opposite; it is only to point out that if war is to be avoided the causes which produce it must be removed. It is to magnify its wickedness by showing the base and deadly roots from which it springs. In war it is not the fighting, inhuman and ghastly as that is, which is the fundamental iniquity; it is the wickedness of spirit which is back of it. A great war in the Balkans would simply be the last hideous revelation of the fiendish and vengeful passions which have ruled the souls of the people there almost since the memory of man, and made of a naturally beautiful region a veritable Gehenna.

The present situation has been brought about chiefly by three causes, to say nothing of the incidental influence of Bulgaria's political ambition. The first of these is, of course, the religious bigotry and tyranny of the Turk, which have manifested themselves from time immemorial in the high-handed suppression of every cry for freedom and political right on the part of the non-Mussulman population, and in the repeated wholesale massacres and outrages which have curdled the blood of humane people everywhere. The deeds of the Turkish troops which are now reported from Macedonia and the borders of Bulgaria, make it plain that no change whatever has taken place in the Moslem heart. But in spite of the cruel hand which the Turk has laid upon the people, his effort to bring about submission and peace in this way has proved a complete failure, as such procedure always has proved, unless a population is completely annihilated.

The second cause of the situation has been the spirit of retaliation and vengeance on the part of the

so-called Christian portion of the population, among whom there has clearly been at times a good deal that was blameworthy. But their resort to violence, though easily understood under the circumstances and much more excusable than the unprovoked blood-guiltiness of the Turk, has only served to render the situation worse. For every deed of vengeance done by the "Christians," swift return has been made by the Kurds or Bashi-bazouks or other minions of the Sultan, in new massacres and destruction of villages, more cruel, if possible, than former ones. In this give-and-take of violence the Turk, being the stronger, always comes out best, according to the old law of might. He will continue to have the upper hand so long as the contest goes on on this plane, and there seems little hope that the revolution now in progress and rapidly spreading will accomplish anything, if unaided from without, except the further desolation and ruin of the land.

One could wish that the real Christianity of Jesus Christ and the Sermon on the Mount had been tried in this land of horrors during the generations of conflict. The sacrifice in life and possessions would doubtless have been great, but love and self-sacrifice if persisted in are at last irresistible. One-half the sufferings and deaths which have been actually undergone would, if endured after the method of Jesus, have probably redeemed the whole region before now, and made it a land of order and peace. There seems to us very little hope of any end to the present deplorable state of affairs, now generations old, until more of the real spirit of the Master comes to prevail in the hearts of the people. Hate and violence always produce after their kind.

The third cause of the Balkan situation has been the course of the European powers towards Turkey. It would not be easy to find in the entire political history of the world,—judging these powers upon their own principles,—anything more base and dishonorable than this course. For nearly a century the existence of the Turkish dominion in Europe and its conduct have been at the will of the powers. This dominion has been upheld in the face of the execrable conduct of the Turkish authorities and subjects, not because the powers have desired to avoid the calamity of war—except possibly to themselves—or have cared anything for the integrity of the Ottoman empire. It has been because of their mutual jealousies, and their wish each to become, in part at least, the Sultan's successor when he crosses the Bosphorus. Upheld thus, the Sultan and his subordinates have committed or permitted every conceivable form of tyranny and cruelty, knowing that not one of the European governments would lift a finger against their crimes. Even at the present moment the powers are showing themselves much more alarmed over the possible political outcome of the uprising than troubled because of the frightful hard-

ships and cruelties inflicted upon the people. If they interfere at all, it will doubtless be to suppress the revolution, to maintain the *status quo*, to put up another hopeless patchwork of reforms, to keep the "Unspeakable Turk" in the saddle, and to leave the region as it has been in the past, the playground of Moslem tyranny and ferocity.

Here again in the case of the powers, armed with immeasurable strength, the whole system of force and reliance upon it for promoting any good has completely broken down. The legitimate fruit of militarism is selfish ambition, jealousy, indifference to right, and open or tacit support of injustice whenever it "pays" to do so. No better illustration of this law could be found than the pitiable weakness of the European governments in the presence of Turkish tyranny and injustice. Politically it is the infamy of infamies of modern times.

These considerations make one feel that the situation in European Turkey is gloomy almost beyond remedy. For the suffering people of that country there seems at present little hope, unless the God of justice and peace, who is at the same time the Almighty, interferes in some unexpected way in their behalf, and sets in movement a radically new course of life and conduct.

Editorial Notes.

Arrangements are now practically completed for the Peace Congress which is to meet at Rouen, France, on the 22d inst.

The opening session of the Congress, on Tuesday morning at nine o'clock, will be occupied in hearing addresses from representatives of the different countries having delegates present, as to the situation in their own country. The subsequent programme will include a report from the Committee of the Peace Bureau on the political events of the year, related to the cause of peace; a report of a committee to study pending questions which might provoke international conflicts; a report of a special committee on the economic causes of war; truce of armaments; a paper on the "Law of Peace"; the question of defense and treaties of defense; the rôle and usefulness of national peace congresses alongside the international congress; permanent treaties of arbitration; methods of promoting the peace cause; report of a committee on relations with associations of workingmen; an international peace flag, etc. The events of the year have been such as will certainly make the Congress one of great interest. It will be under the patronage of several members of the French government, President Loubet himself and the Minister of Commerce being honorary presidents. Among the members of the Committee of Patronage are several of the most distinguished French Senators and Deputies.